

Student Name:

Date:

Guided Notes: Intelligent Design on Trial

Episode One

Over the last eighty years, few topics have remained as consistently divisive as the teaching of creationism in public school classrooms. Since the infamous Scopes “monkey trial” in 1925, there continues to be a debate about whether creationism should also be taught in public schools. In the Scopes trial, called *The State of Tennessee vs. Thomas Scopes*, a teacher was convicted of teaching evolution at a public school in violation of a state ban. Later, in 1968, in a case called *Epperson v. Arkansas*, the Supreme Court of the United States held that such teaching bans were unconstitutional and in violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution.

The First Amendment states: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Since 1968, people in favor of teaching creationism keep trying to figure out how to modify school curricula and inject antievolution material into public school classes. Most recently, in Dover, Pennsylvania, members of the school board tried to require science teachers to teach Intelligent Design.

In class and for homework, you will watch a film called “Intelligent Design on Trial” produced by PBS’ NOVA about the Dover “panda trial” called *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District*.

Student Name:

Date:

While watching the film, please take notes in this packet and complete the questions as assigned for homework.

Area for Notes:

Student Name:

Date:

Classwork: Answer the following questions on Episode One. Use complete sentences and avoid vague words.

1. Describe the piece of art that first ignited signs of trouble in the town of Dover, Pennsylvania.

2. Why did this piece of artwork create a conflict or rift or division?

3. At the time, Dover's school board only included Darwin's theory of evolution in the curriculum. What did the school board want to require science teachers to do under its new policy?

Student Name:

Date:

4. What is the name of this controversial idea?

5. Who was on the side of the school board? What type of professions? What do they believe?

6. Who was against the side of the school board? What type of professions? What do they believe?

-